

Amendments to the Drawings:

A replacement sheet containing Fig. 1 is enclosed, in which reference numeral “18” has been added to designate the “outlet opening 18” as described on page 5, line 15 of the specification as filed.

Attachments: Replacement sheet (Fig. 1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 to 17 are pending in this application with claims 1 and 8 being the only independent claims. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 11-15 have been withdrawn from consideration in view of the Species Election Requirement. New claims 16 and 17 have been added and supported by claims 1 and 3. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite additional features disclosed on page 2, lines 10-17 and page 4, lines 1-7 of the English specification as filed. Claims 1, 3, and 8 have been amended to remove informalities indicated in the Office Action without narrowing the scope of any claims or any elements contained therein. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the subject application is hereby respectfully requested.

Overview of the Office Action

The drawings have been objected to for failing to show the “outlet opening 18” described on page 5, line 15.

Claims 1, 3, and 10 have been objected to due to the alleged informalities.

Claims 1, 3, 8, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-320989A to Sakai.

Amendments Addressing Informalities

Fig. 1 has been amended to include reference numeral “18” designating the “outlet opening 18” as described on page 5, line 15 of the specification as filed. The objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Claims 1, 3, and 10 have been amended as the Examiner suggested to address the alleged informalities. The objection to claims 1, 3, and 10 has thus been overcome.

Summary of the Subject Matter Disclosed in the Specification

The following descriptive details are based on the specification. They are provided only for the convenience of the Examiner as part of the discussion presented herein, and are not intended to argue limitations which are unclaimed.

The specification discloses a printer 2 comprising a print head 7, a medium transport device 15 for transporting a supply of printing medium 10, and a control unit 3 controlling the operation of the medium transport device 15. The control unit 3 operates to activate the medium transport device 15 to carry out a rest state transport at periodic intervals, within which, even without the presence of a print job, the medium transport device 15 transports the printing medium 10 in and/or counter to an output transport direction 12. *See*, page 2, lines 10-17 of the specification as filed.

During the rest state transport, the control unit 3 activates the medium transport device 15 in such a way that the printing medium 10 is initially conveyed from an initial position in a direction opposite to the output transport direction 12. As a result, the printing medium 10 entering into a connection with the print head 7 and the pressure roller 8 is pulled out by the pressure roller 8. The control unit 3 then activates the medium transport device 15 to convey the retracted printing medium 10 in the output transport direction 12 back into the initial position. This procedure can be repeated, as the system comes to the initial position present before the rest state transport. *See, e.g.*, page 3, lines 10-24.

To avoid a printing medium jam under all circumstances, the rest state transport takes place at the start of an activation of a print job before the print job is processed (*see*, page 4, lines 1-7). The rest state transport in the present invention prevents the formation of an adhesive connection or the adhesive bonding of the printing medium 10 with components 7, 8 in contact with the printing medium 10. *See*, page 2, lines 24-29.

Patentability of the Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 recites that “the medium transport device carries out a rest state transport at periodic intervals, even without the presence of a print job, and at the start of an activation of a print job before processing the print job, within which rest state transport, the medium transport device transports the printing medium in and/or opposite to the output transport direction.” As applicants described above, the rest state transport of the present invention can avoid a printing medium jam under all circumstances and be repeated virtually without limit.

The above recited claim features are not taught by Sakai because Sakai merely teaches rotating the stepping motor 4 in normal, reverse, and normal directions after passage of a fixed period of time, rather than “at the start of an activation of a print job before processing the print job” as explicitly recited in independent claim 1.

Based on applicants’ best understanding of Sakai, Sakai merely teaches a normal, reverse, and normal rotation of the stepping motor during the waiting time to temporarily free the recording paper 1 from being adhered to the thermal head 2 or the roller 3. In one embodiment, Sakai teaches that such normal-reverse-normal rotation is carried out every fixed length of time during the waiting period (see, paras. [0012] to [0014] of machine translation).

There is no teaching in Sakai to carry out the normal-reverse-normal rotation of the stepping motor “at the start of an activation of a print job before processing the print job” as explicitly recited in independent claim 1. In contrast, Sakai explicitly teaches that such normal-reverse-normal rotation is carried out only after the lapse of a fixed period of time. Therefore, Sakai does not teach the above recited claim features of independent claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Sakai. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is hereby respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 8

Similar to independent claim 1, independent claim 8 recites “transporting a printing medium with a medium transport device, even without a print job in and/or opposite to an output transport direction at periodic intervals during rest state transport, and at the start of an activation of a print job before processing a print job.” Accordingly, independent claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons submitted above.

New Independent Claim 16

Similar to independent claim 1, new independent claim 16 recites “at the start of an activation of a print job and before processing the print job, the medium transport device carries out a rest state transport.” Accordingly, new independent claim 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons submitted above.

Dependent Claims 3, 10, and 17

Claims 3, 10, and 17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1, 8, or 16 and are thus allowable therewith. In addition, these dependent claims include features which serve to even more clearly distinguish the present claimed invention over the prior art of record.

Dependent Claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 11-15

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the additional species covered by claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 11-15 and rejoin the same in the subject application upon the allowance of the generic or linking claims—independent claims 1 and 8.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By /Alfred W. Froebrich/

Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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